demand centres by (i) creation of oil Storage capacity at strategic locations; (ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oil; (iii) developing economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones. As part of this plan NDDB has created oil storage capacity of 2.31 lakh tonnes and oil packaging capacity of 2.53 lakh tonnes per annum. The grid related infrastructure would continue to develop over the years.

Appointmtnt of operating Consultants to study State Farms Corporation of India

2113. MISS SAROJ KHAPARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently appointed operating Consultants for undertaking a diagnostic study of State Farms Corporaton of India;

(b) if so, what were the recommendations of the consultants regarding the State Farms Corporation of India;

(c) whether Government have since implemented all those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Operating Consultants have been appointed under the National Seeds Project (NSP III) for undertaking a diagnostic study of the State Farms Corporation of India. The major recommendations of the consultants relate to the following:—

(i) Identification and achievement of defined corporate objectives;

(ii) Strengthening of organisational structure with appropriate and skilled manpower.

(iii) Identification and development of training needs and policy.

(iv) Development of appropriate short and long-term production, sales and marketing strategies.

(v) Development of improved systems of budgeting, accounting and financial management.

(vi) Provision of performance appraisal system and operational reviews.

(c) and (d) Recommendations of the Operating Consultants wich require action on the part of Government relate to provision of financial assistance which is being madt.

Area under cotton cultivation

2114. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its break-up State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cotton yield per hectare is lowest in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons to the low yield; and

(e) steps being taken to improve the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total area under cotton cultivation in the country during 1992-93 is estimated at 75.43 lakh hectares. Its